

WHAT'S ON

Shilu Abed Craftperson Award Venue: Brac Centre Auditorium, Mohakhali Date: March 5 Time: 5pm

Classical Vocal Music Recital Artist: Vidya Shah Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA Date: March 4 Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art exhibition Title: Art As a Composed Emotion Artist: Zenaat Wahid Venue: Art Club, Garden Gallery, H-34, R-1/A, Dhamondi Date: Feb 25-Mar 3 Time: 3pm-7pm

Workshop & Art Exhibition Organizer: Gallery Cosmos Artist: Fudezuka Toshisiba Venue: Cosmos Centre, 69/1, New Circular Road, Malibagh Date: Feb-25-March 5

Bangladesh Street Theatre Festival 2011 Organizer: Bangladesh Street Theatre Parishad Venue: Central Shaheed Minar Date: March 1-7 Time: 4pm

Solo Photo Exhibition Title: Gear and Panda Photographer: Babu Ahmed Venue: Bengali Gallery/Fine Arts, 14/27/16, 84/16 Road, Dhamondi Date: Feb 27-March 8 Time: 12-8pm

Robi Music for the Women Venue: Aysha Memorial Hospital, Mohakhali Date: March 1 Time: 9am-6pm

Srijonshil Tarunner Natyapokash Venue: Natyomondol, Dhaka University Date: March 1-15 Time: 6pm

Photography Exhibition Title: 60 Shots-Season 2 Venue: Dhak Gallery, H-35, R-15/A, Dhamondi Date: Feb 25-Mar 1 Time: 3pm-6pm

Gonoshilpi Shangshtha Observes Int'l Mother Language Day

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Gonoshilpi Shangshtha, a leading cultural outfit of the district, organised a unique programme to give 32 young ones their first lesson (Hate-khori) in Bangla alphabets. The programme was held at Pabna Town Hall premises on Saturday morning. Among the veterans, Advocate Golem Hasnayein, Professor Monwar Hossain Jahedi, Professor Shibojit Nag, advocate Aminul Islam, Dr. Mohammed Habibullah and Rawshan Akhter Mintu imparted lessons to the children. AT the discussion they said that the young children should be initiated to write Bangla alphabets from a very early age. They said that it was their duty to give children their first lesson in Bangla letters. Their parents and teachers, they pointed out, had first taught them Bangla letters when they embarked on their academic life. However, the tradition of starting education with the Hatey-Khari programme was rapidly being eroded, they added. Much to their dismay, they said, that young ones are often taught a foreign word in their first lesson instead of Bangla alphabets. This practice, they asserted, was absolutely wrong; children must be take lessons in their mother tongue first and only then in other languages. "All 32 children received their first lesson from veteran educationists of the district. Through this programme, we have stressed the need to generate awareness and strengthen the Bangla language at an early age," said Biplob Bhoumik, a key organiser. The programme also focused on our traditional heritage, he added.



A Congregation of Tagore Song Enthusiasts

Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan '11 ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan 2011 organised by Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad (JRSSP) at Shaikat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh, in Dhaka ended on February 27. On the closing day, the programme began at 9am. A general meeting attended by members of JRSSP followed. A 61-member new committee was formed (for the next two years) at the meeting. Professor Zillur Rahman

Siddiqui was made president while Dr. Sanjida Khatun will act as the Executive President for the organisation. Sohrab Uddin was chosen as general secretary and Moineuddin Nazir was selected treasurer of JRSSP. The evening session started at 4pm with a prize-giving programme. Winners of the nationwide contest on Rabindra Sangeet, also arranged by JRSSP, were awarded at the programme. Tahmid Wasif Wriwu stood first in the youngsters' category while Semonty Manjory earned the top spot in general category. A short discussion was also part of the event. Artist and language movement veteran Imdad Hossain

was honoured by the organisation. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui handed over the Rabindra Padak (award) and a cheque worth Tk 50,000 to the artist at the session. Sohrab Uddin, general secretary of JRSSP, delivered the formal vote of thanks. The cultural programme featured solo and choral renditions, solo recitation and dances. A number of noted and upcoming artistes from all over the country performed on the concluding day. Aditi Mohsin, Ifrat Ara Dewan, Sushmita Ahmed, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Tania Mannan, Roquiaya Hasina Neely, Mizanur Rahman Taslim, ATM Jahangir,

Papia Sarwar, Bulbul Islam, Mita Haque and others performed Tagore songs while Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay and Mir Barkat recited poems on the occasion. Directed by Samina Hossain Prema and Tamanna Rahman, artistes of Bhabna and Nriyama presented two dances at the event. Reproductions of Tagore's art were also showcased just outside the venue. The festival continued well into the night. An annual event by JRSSP, this was the 30th arrangement by the organisation. Hundreds of Tagore artistes participated at the three-day event.



Language Movement Veteran Mohammad Sultan Honoured

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT writes from Panchagarh

Fifty-nine years after the Language Movement, a veteran of the movement from Panchagarh, Mohammad Sultan, was honoured (posthumously) last Friday evening. The function was held at a week-long book fair at Freedom Fighters' Memorial premises in Panchagarh town. Mohammad Sultan's daughters Dr. Chandana Sultana and Sushmita Sultana received the crest on behalf of their father. The programme followed a discussion where Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh, Banamali Bhoumick attended as chief guest. Freedom fighter Shaikhul Islam was in the chair. Deputy Commissioner Banamali Bhoumick announced that a road in Panchagarh town would be named after Mohammad Sultan and a mural of



Dr. Chandana Sultana speaks at the programme.

him would be erected there by March 26, 2011. He added that a book fair would be arranged annually in the town on February 21. Thanking the Deputy Commissioner for the elaborate arrangement, Dr. Sultana said, "My father had a long and eventful political life. All his life he dreamed of a progressive society. However, in his lifetime he had to face repression and incarceration. He didn't even have sufficient means for his family and we grew up in hardship." Mohammad Sultan was born at Maigram village in Panchagarh on December 24, 1926. He died on December 31, 1983. Professionals, students, teachers, journalists and others attended the programme.

Weeklong Street Theatre Festival Begins Today

বাংলাদেশ পথনাটক পরিষদ - The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong street theatre festival to mark the month of Independence begins today at the Central Shaheed Minar premises. Bangladesh Patho Natok Parishad and The Daily Star have jointly organised the festival. Over 50 plays by troupes from across the

country will be staged throughout the festival. The plays will highlight different aspects of the Liberation War. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will inaugurate the festival as chief guest. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam will be present as special guest at the inaugural. Mannan Heera, president, Patho Natok Parishad, will preside over the inaugural session. Among others, theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Youssuff, Liakat Ali Lucky and Golam Kuddus will speak at the inaugural programme. Everyday the show will begin at 4pm. Six/seven plays will be staged each day.

Street theatre holds the key

Patha Natya Utsab begins

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A four-day 'Patha Natya Utsab' began at the local Shaheed Minar premises on February 27 evening with the staging of "Barnachura" by Angina Sahitya and Sangskritik Goshthi. Written and directed by Momtaz Uddin Ahmed and Masud Chowdhury, the opening play caught the attention of the huge audience gathered at the venue. Two plays, "Barnamalar Chekhe Jal", written and directed by SM Ali Azhar and Ashraful Gani Upol, was staged by Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, while "Utophater Jatri", written and directed by Emdadul Haque Emdad, was staged by Shapla Theatre on the inaugural day of the festival. Organised by Mymensingh Theatre Association, the festival will conclude on March 2. Three theatre groups will perform each day during the festival. A total of 12 drama groups of the town will perform at the festival. The festival, marking February 21st and International Mother Language Day, is the first of its kind in the town, said the organisers.



A scene from "Barnachura".

Natyakol Sampradaya, Ensemble Theatre and Sareng Natya Sangha staged "Birangana Upakshan", "Fagun Bare Bare" and "Agher Kotha" written by SA Apurna, Ibrahim Khalil and Nizam Mollick Nizu. The dramas were directed by SA Apurna, Abul Mansur and AKM Mamunul Haque Biplob respectively on February 28. Jagoroni Natya Goshthi, Compass Natya Sampradaya, Chhayantan Sahitya and Sangskritik Dal,

Jhlik Natya Sangstha, Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Mymensingh Lokkrishthi Sangstha will stage plays, "Nijdeshe Konbeshe", "Arati", "Bandhu Tomay Payechi", "Endara", "Daidaitya" and "Abaro Sangram" on March 1 and March 2. Marking the opening ceremony, a discussion was held with Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, convener of Mymensingh Theatre Association in the chair. Theatre veteran Golam Rafiq inaugurated the celebration. Among others Prof. AKM Helalul Islam, secretary of Jhlik Natya Sangstha Saiful Islam Dudu, councillor of Mymensingh municipality Asif Hossain addressed the discussion. The speakers said that street theatre is the original form of drama though today we have different theatre forms, including stage drama and TV drama. Street theatre play a significant role in different democratic movements of the country as an art form that can convey important messages to the common people, said the speakers. The artistes need open spaces for staging street plays, but now space is very limited in the town, lamented the speakers.

THE 83RD ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS

A Tribute to Hollywood's GOLDEN AGE

Blast from the Past



(From left) Bale, Portman, Leo and Firth with their Academy Awards.

OSAMA RAHMAN Would this be the moment when the Oscars finally managed to appeal to a much younger demographic? Anne Hathaway and James Franco, hosts of the 83rd Annual Academy Awards, wished to achieve just that. Haunted by hosts of Oscars-past, Hathaway and Franco broke no barriers nor did they inspire a whole new generation of viewers to stay glued to the TV, but they managed to, ironically, bring back pieces of Oscar's history. This year's affair was a party indeed -- dazzling, proper and sophisticated. The show started off with a former Oscar host Alec Baldwin's journey through his dreams, inspired by the movie "Inception". Fragments of his dreams were actually clips from nominated movies such as "True Grit" and "The Social Network", where Franco and Hathaway found themselves, conversing with Jeff Bridges and Natalie Portman whilst they remained unaware. It was a much applauded attempt at humour, and then the show began. Colin Firth and Natalie Portman picked up the Oscars for Best Actor and Actress, respectively. Firth sealed the deal for his remarkable depiction of King George the VI, while Portman's portrayal of a ballerina sunk in depths of self-deception and losing touch with reality just before the performance of her life, won rave reviews and Oscar-cries right after the film was released. Thus, these wins came as no surprise. The Oscar for Best Actor and Actress in Supporting Roles had much more drama. Bale's role as Dicky Edmund, the

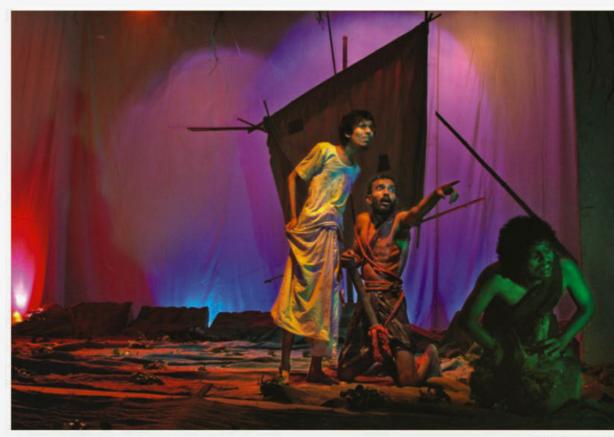


Hosts James Franco and Anne Hathaway.

drug induced and maniacal former boxing legend, spoke at lengths. It seems that he picked up a thing or two from his former co-star, the late Heath Ledger, but Bale had already proven his capabilities previously in the dark movie "The Machinist". No man deserved the Oscar more. The Oscar for Best Actress in a Supporting Role went to Melissa Leo. At 50, it was surprising how she beat off

Helena Bonham and Hailee Steinfeld, but then again Melissa's role called for far more on-screen time and had more depth. The Oscar for Best Original Screenplay went to the 73-year old David Seidler for "The King's Speech". Accepting his Oscar, David said, "I was told I would be a late bloomer." The award for Best Director went to Tom Hooper for "The King's Speech", while "Toy Story 3", predictably, won an Oscar for Best Animated Picture. The Oscar for Best Foreign Film went to Denmark's entry, "In a Better World". Of course the award ceremony would not be complete without an Oscar for "Inception", which won in the Best Cinematography category. Questions persisted throughout the evening why "Inception" was not even in running for any of the other major categories, but at least the movie deservedly left with something. Though this may not have ushered in a hip new era that Hollywood or rather the Academy was craving, it was indeed a dignified affair. As the audience reverted back to traditions of folklore and Billy Crystal reminded us of when times were better, a feeling of preservation prevailed. The 83rd Academy Awards managed to showcase the best of Hollywood with no question of partiality arising.

Theatre Festival Featuring DU Students



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight-long theatre festival featuring productions by students of the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University, begins today at the university's Natmandal auditorium. The festival, titled 'Robi Srijonshil Tarunner Natyapokash 2011', will feature 25 plays and will continue till March 15. The plays will highlight a diverse range of theatrical works -- from indigenous forms of Bangladesh to world classics from Europe and America. The organisers informed that the featured plays are part of the final year students' curriculum. Each play is being directed by a student from the batch. Chairman of the department and noted actor Rahmat Ali hopes that the festival will provide an array of theatrical styles and genres. "I hope the plays will be good in terms of quality and the audience will enjoy each of them," said Ali. Some of the plays to be staged at the festival are -- "Ujaney Mrittu" (written by Syed Waliullah), "Mukhosh" (adapted by Syed Shamsul Haq); "Jukthin Joog" (by Abdul Mannan Syed); "Kathoktra" (by Buddhadeb Basu); "Bichar Gaan"; "The Old Man and The Sea" (Ernest Hemingway); "Enigma" (Floyd Dell); "The Dumb Waiter" (Harold Pinter); "Padodhoni" (adaptation of Samuel Becket's work); "A Marriage Proposal" (Anton Chekhov); "The Audition" (Rudolf Sira) and "Death Knocks" (Woody Allen). The duration of the plays will range from 30 minutes to over one hour. The shows will start in the evening. Telecom operator Robi is the sponsor of the festival.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, nTV, etc.

Table with radio stations and their programmes: abc radio FM 89.2, 99.00, 100.00, etc.

Over Boundary On Boishakhi TV at 08:45pm Drama Serial Cast: Javed Anwar, Belim Golla

WICKERS CASE Gone in Sixty Seconds On Star Movies at 10:25pm Genre: Action/ Crime Cast: Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie

Gaan On TV at 10:15pm Talk Show (Live) Host: Fauzia Farin

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ETV, Rtv, Desh TV, etc.

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